

Appl. No. 10/509,136

Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2006

Amendment dated: May 22, 2007

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicant's invention as now claimed.

In order to highlight the distinctions between the prior art set forth by the Examiner and the present invention, Applicant has modified each of the independent claims to specify the retarder stack structure which in the preferred exemplary embodiment is located in the optical path between the illumination light source and the color separation composition element. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the retarder stack is configured in order to rotate the polarization direction of specific light wavelengths. The reflection wavelength band of the reflection planes for the color separation composition element or dichroic prism is set corresponding to the property of the retarder stack. More specifically, the wavelength band of light passing through the reflection planes such as the planes 5a and b correspond to the wavelength band which is caused to be P polarized by the retarder stack.

A retarder stack is comprised of multiple retardation films and these films rotate the polarization direction of the desired light or target wavelength for example, by 90° or some arbitrary angle. Additionally, new claims have been added which specify that the color separation/composition element is a dichroic prism along with the relationship with other claim elements. As set forth a new claims in 10 and 11, the color separation/composition element is a dichroic prism wherein one of the light modulating elements and a corresponding polarization element is located at each of at least three side walls of the dichroic prism.

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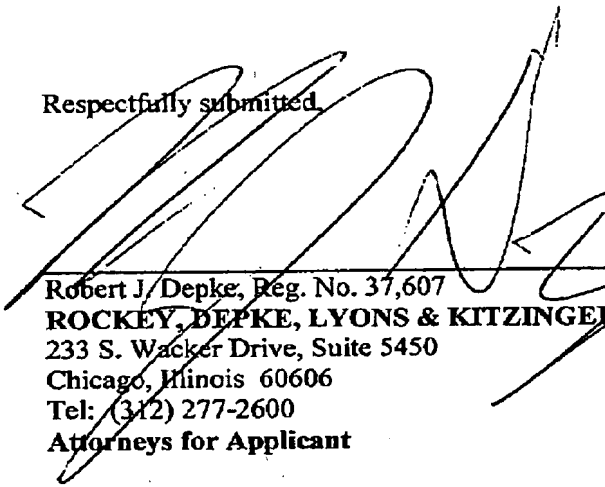
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Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding the use of a retarder stack or a retarder stack in combination with a dichroic prism wherein one of the light modulating elements and a corresponding polarization element is located at each of at least three side walls of the dichroic prism as now specified in the claims.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, because the prior art cited by the examiner do not teach or suggest the unique in nonobvious structure described by Applicant, Applicant submits that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/22/07


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